

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 19-21 are amended. Claims 2-8 and 12-18 are canceled. Claims 10-11 are pending. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication in the Office Action dated September 28, 2004 that claims 2 and 12 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. In order to expedite issuance of the application, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations previously recited in claim 2. Similarly, independent claim 9 now includes the limitations previously recited in claim 12, and thus should be allowable as well as claims 10, 11, 20, and 21 that depend therefrom. In addition, claim 19 has been amended to include limitations similar to those previously recited in claims 2 and 12. Accordingly, applicants believe that claim 19 is also in a condition for allowance.

The amendments made herein are being made to clarify the invention and to focus the claims on those aspects of the invention which are a commercial priority to the assignee. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved. To the extent that the amendments constitute a narrowing of the claims, such narrowing of the claims should not be construed as an admission as to the merits of the prior rejections. Indeed, Applicants traverse the rejections and preserve all rights and arguments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue additional protection in applications filed during the pendency of this application.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, it is respectfully submitted that the claims currently pending in the present application are in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of those claims, as amended herein, is earnestly solicited. Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact their representative, David Franklin at (513) 651-6856 or dfranklin@fbtlaw.com.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of fees to Frost Brown Todd LLC Deposit Account No. 06-2226.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that a copy of this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

December 2, 2004.

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Respectfully submitted,

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